THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND;

Conveened at *Edinburgh*, the 9th Day of *May*, 1723.

Collected and extracted from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.

EDINBURGH,
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THE PRINCIPAL

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OF THE

Church of *Scotland*;

Holden and begun at *Edinburgh*, upon *Thursday* the 9th Day of *May* 1723, and ending the 21st Day of that same Month and Year.

I.

The King's Commission to Charles *Earl of* Hoptoun *produced, and ordered to be recorded.*

At *Edinburgh*, 9th *May* 1723. Sess. 1.

THE General Assembly of the Ministers and Ruling Elders of this National Church, being conveened and constituted, there was produced to them by the Right Honourable *Charles* Earl of *Hoptoun*, His Majesty's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union betwixt the Two Kingdoms of *Scotland* and *England*, to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*; appointing him His Majesty's High Commissioner, and Representative in this National Assembly: Which Commission being publickly read, with all due Honour and Respect, the General Assembly ordered the same to be recorded in their Registers, *ad futuram Rei Memoriam*, the Tenor whereof follows.

GEORGIUS, *Dei Gratia*, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ *Rex*, *Fideique Defensor*; *Omnibus probis Hominibus ad quos præsentes Literæ Nostræ pervenerint*, *Salutem*. *Quandoquidem Nos considerantes*, *quod Generalis Ecclesiæ* Scotiæ *Conventus in Nonum Diem Mensis* Maii *proxime futuri convenire Ordinatus fuit*. *Nosque etiam abunde cupidi*, *quin etiam necessarium esse judicantes in Commodum*

modum dictæ Ecclesiæ, ut idem Generalis Ecclesiæ Conventus Die Statuto debite observetur, atque Rebus magni Momenti Nos alio Vocantibus dicto Conventui personaliter Interesse nequimus. Et per multa Testimonia Nobis abunde satisfactum sit de Sufficientia & Fidelitate Fidelissimi & Dilectissimi Nostri Consanguinei Caroli *Comitis de* Hoptoun, *quod ad summum Munus supremi Nostri Commissionarii, dicto Generali Conventui, rite exercendum & obeundum usque quaque sit instructus & idoneus; Noveritis igitur Nos Nominasse, Constituisse & Ordinasse, sicuti Nos, Tenore Præsentium, Nominamus, Constituimus & Ordinamus antedictum Fidelissimum & Dilectissimum Nostrum Consanguineum* Carolum *Comitum de* Hoptoun *supremum Nostrum Commissionarium dicto Generali Ecclesiæ* Scotiæ *Conventui; Dando pariter & Concedendo illi plenissimam Potestatem, Commissionem & Warrantum, Sacram Nostram Personam & Authoritatem Regalem representandi; Nec non, Præsentiam Nostram supplendi, et Locum Nostrum in dicto subsequenti Generali Conventu tanquam Commissionario Nostro in hunc Effectum specialiter Constituto tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium & Munus Commissionarii pro Generali Ecclesiæ Conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere, in quovis Respectu, quam quilibet alius ejusdem summi Muneris fecerat, seu quovis Tempore præterito facere potuerat; & ac si Nos ipsi personaliter Præsentes facerè potuerimus. Quæque omnia & singula a dicto* Carolo *Comite de* Hoptoun *in hac Nostra Commissione prosequenda, legitime faciendo Nos firmiter approbamus, & habituri sumus. Omnibus & singulis insuper antedictæ Ecclesiæ & Conventus Pastoribus & Presbyteris, cæterisque quibuscunque infra illam Partem* Magnæ Britanniæ Scotiam *vocatam, Subditis Nostris cujuscunque Gradus seu Qualitatis, ut dictum* Carolum *Comitem de* Hoptoun, *tanquam supremum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad Effectum & Modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant, & Dicto ipsius audientes se præbeant stricte Mandamus & Imperamus. Atque hanc Nostram Commissionem a dicto Nono Die Mensis* Maii *proxime incipere, ac deinceps hac subsequenti Sessione dicti Generalis Conventus in Vigore continuare Declaramus; vel usque dum a Nobis revocabitur & exoneratur. In cujus Rei Testimonium, Præsentibus Sigillum Nostrum per Unionis Tractatum, Custodiendum, et, in* Scotia, *Vice et Loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utendum, ordinatum, appendi Mandavimus, apud Aulam Nostram de St.* James's, *Undecimo Die Mensis* Aprilis, *Anno Domini Millesimo septingentesimo vigesimo tertio; et Anno Regni Nostri Nono.*

Per Signaturam Manu S. D. N. Regis Suprascripta.

Sealed at *Edinburgh*, the Third Day of *May*, One thousand seven hundred and twenty three Years.
Ja. Robertson.

Written to the Seal, and registrate the Third Day of *May*, 1723.
Ron. Campbell, Depute.

II. *The*

II.

The KING's *most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by His Majesty's Commissioner,* May 9*th,* 1723. Sess. 1.

GEORGE R.

RIght Reverend and Well-beloved, We Greet you well. We have received so many Instances of your Loyalty and Affection on all Occasions, that We cannot but with great Chearfulness give Our Countenance, and Royal Authority, to your Meeting at this Time; being fully perswaded, that the same prudent and dutiful Behaviour will appear in this, that has been constantly manifested in your preceeding Assemblies.

We take this Opportunity of renewing to you, Our repeated Assurances, that We will promote the Interest, and inviolably maintain the Rights and Privileges of the Church, as it is by Law establish'd in *Scotland.* And We are confident, that you will concur with Us in Our earnest Endeavours towards the promoting of true Religion, and the discouraging Vice and Immorality: In order to the obtaining of which desireable Ends, We doubt not but you will conduct your selves with that Spirit of Meekness and Unanimity, in all your Debates and Councils, as becomes so venerable an Assembly.

We have made Choice of Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Cousin, *Charles* Earl of *Hoptoun,* to be Our Commissioner, and to represent Our Royal Person in this present Assembly; being confident that his known Concern for the Church, as well as Zeal for Our Interest and Service, will make him acceptable to you. And so We bid you heartily Farewel. Given at Our Court at St. *James*'s, the Nineteenth Day of *April,* One thousand seven hundred and twenty three Years, in the Ninth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

ROXBURGH.

III.

The General Aſſembly's Anſwer to the King's moſt gracious Letter.

Edinburgh, May 11. 1723. Seſſ. 3.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

WE humbly beg Leave to acknowledge, with the greateſt Thankfulneſs, the Honour of Your Majeſty's moſt gracious Letter to us; which is the more obliging, that Your Majeſty is pleaſed, in Your great Goodneſs, to take Notice of the Loyalty and good Affection of former Aſſemblies; and to give Your Royal Countenance to our Meeting at this Time. We ſhould be altogether unworthy of Your Majeſty's Royal Favour, if we did not endeavour the ſame prudent and dutiful Behaviour in this, which Your Majeſty does obſerve to have been conſtantly manifeſted in our preceeding Aſſemblies.

It is Matter of great Joy to us, that Your Majeſty is pleaſed graciouſly to renew Your repeated Aſſurances, that You will promote the Intereſt, and inviolably maintain the Rights and Privileges of the Church of *Scotland*, as it is by Law eſtabliſhed.

We eſteem it our great Happineſs, that we have a Sovereign upon the Throne, who uſes His earneſt Endeavours towards the promoting of true Religion, and the diſcouraging Vice and Immorality; and ſhould be very much wanting to the Duty of our Stations, if we did not heartily concur therewith. And, in order to the obtaining theſe deſirable Ends, we hope, we ſhall, through the Divine Aſſiſtance, conduct our ſelves with that Spirit of Meekneſs and Unanimity which becomes ſuch an Aſſembly.

The known Concern of the Earl of *Hoptoun* for this Church, as well as his Zeal for Your Majeſty's Intereſt and Service, makes Your Choice of him, to repreſent Your Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly, moſt acceptable to us; and we cannot but look upon it, as a new Inſtance of Your Majeſty's Royal Favour to this Church.

While with the greateſt Joy and Thankfulneſs, we reflect upon the remarkable Goodneſs of God, in preſerving Your Majeſty from the late wicked and deteſtable Conſpiracy againſt Your Perſon and Government; we earneſtly pray, that the ſame gracious God may long pre-

preſerve your ſacred Majeſty, to reign a happy Prince, over an obedient and dutiful People: May He make You more and more the Guardian of the Proteſtant Intereſt in *Europe*; may He ever preſerve Your Royal Perſon from the ſecret Craft, and open Violence of Your Enemies; may He eminently bleſs their Royal Highneſſes, the Prince and Princeſs of *Wales*, and their Royal Iſſue; and, after he has long honour'd Your Majeſty to ſerve Him upon Earth, may You be crowned with a Crown of Glory that fadeth not away; and may there never be wanting to theſe Nations a Succeſſor of Your Royal Line, who may inherit Your Throne, with Your Royal Virtues. Theſe are and ſhall be the fervent Prayers of,

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful, moſt obedient, and moſt loyal Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders, met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our Preſence, in our Name, and at our Appointment, by

JA. SMITH, Moderator.

IV.

To the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty,

The humble ADDRESS of the General Aſſembly of the Church of *Scotland.*

At *Edinburgh, May* 11. 1723. Seſſ. 3.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

THE grateful Senſe of the Goodneſs of GOD, in bleſſing us with ſuch a gracious Sovereign, and the Duty and Loyalty toward Your Majeſty, which ſo juſtly fill our Hearts, oblige us to ſhew the deepeſt Concern for every Thing that affects the Safety of Your Majeſty's Perſon and Government: And therefore, tho' with the greateſt Satisfaction, we do underſtand, that the

Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly did, according to their Duty, preſent a humble Addreſs to Your Majeſty, upon Occaſion of the happy Diſcovery of the late horrid Conſpiracy, which Addreſs we heartily approve, as expreſſing the moſt ſincere Thoughts of our Minds; yet we cannot omit laying hold of this firſt Opportunity of our Meeting in a General Aſſembly, to declare, in the moſt publick and ſolemn Manner, our utmoſt Deteſtation of that moſt wicked and execrable Deſign, and to expreſs our great Joy, that it hath pleaſed God to aſſiſt Your Majeſty, in making a ſeaſonable Diſcovery thereof.

A Deſign ſo bloody and deteſtable in it ſelf, and ſo pernicious and fatal in its Conſequences, raiſes in our Hearts the greateſt Horror and Indignation. We have for a long Time obſerved, with Aſtoniſhment, the reſtleſs and impudent Malice of Your Enemies, endeavouring to miſrepreſent Your Majeſty's juſt and gracious Adminiſtration, in order to diffuſe their own Diſaffection to Your Perſon and Government, into the Minds of others of Your Majeſty's unwary, though well-meaning Subjects. With this View have they charged upon Your Reign, thoſe Evils, to which none but themſelves gave Riſe. They have ſet forth the moſt innocent, neceſſary and prudent Steps of your Adminiſtration, in the falſeſt and blackeſt Colours, and have even denied and ridiculed Your Royal Goodneſs and Mercy, to which Multitudes of themſelves, and of their neareſt Relations, owe their very Lives and Fortunes: So monſtrous is their Diſingenuity and Ingratitude, and ſuch is their unaccountable Fondneſs to have Your Kingdoms again enthralled under all the Miſeries of Popery and Arbitrary Power.

Your Enemies are abundantly ſenſible, that there is no accompliſhing this their moſt wicked Deſire, ſo long as the Throne is filled by a PRINCE ſo Wiſe and Steddy in all His Meaſures, and ſo powerful a Protector and Guardian of the Proteſtant Religion, and the Liberties of His People, as Your moſt ſacred Majeſty. But, how ſhall we expreſs our Amazement and juſt Indignation, that any of Your Majeſty's Subjects, eſpecially ſuch as call themſelves Proteſtants, ſhould have contrived to deſtroy Your Majeſty's ſacred Perſon and Your Royal Family, and to cut off many of Your beſt Servants and Subjects, by the complicated Wickedneſſes of Perjury, Murder and Parricide, in order to ſet a Popiſh Pretender upon Your Throne? This we look on, as ſtriking at the Root of the Religion and Liberties of a Proteſtant and Free People, and of all that is valuable and dear to us, both as Men and Chriſtians, and as a horrible Evidence to what barbarous Wickedneſs, an incurable Malice can drive Men of abandoned Spirits.

Had

Had God, for the Sins of Your Kingdoms, permitted this hateful Conſpiracy to take Effect, it muſt have been attended with ſuch a diſmal Train of fatal Conſequences, as makes our Hearts to tremble: And therefore, while, with Hearts full of Joy and Thankfulneſs, we adore the Wiſdom and Goodneſs of our gracious God, in diſcovering and diſappointing ſuch an execrable Deſign, permit us, Great Sir, with the greateſt Loyalty and moſt dutiful Affection, to congratulate Your Majeſty upon the Succeſs of Your prudent and watchful Adminiſtration in this Matter.

The Opening up ſo much of this deep-laid Plot, and tracing it through ſo many of its various Mazes and Windings, the ſtripping it of theſe Vails of Darkneſs, which were ſo induſtriouſly ſpread over it, by Men of the moſt artful Cunning, and the Deliverance thereby wrought for Your Majeſty's ſacred Perſon, and Your Royal Family, and alſo for the deareſt Privileges of all Your faithful Subjects, and of this Church in particular, will, we hope, be remembred by lateſt Poſterity, to the Honour of God, and as One of the Glories of Your Majeſty's moſt auſpicious Reign.

We humbly preſume, upon this Occaſion, to aſſure Your Majeſty of the Continuance of our Loyalty and Affection, and of all that Duty and Fidelity, which is owing from the moſt faithful Subjects, to the beſt of Kings; and, that we will uſe our utmoſt Endeavours, to inſtil into the People, among whom we have Charge, the ſame Sentiments of Duty and Loyalty to Your Majeſty's Perſon and Government, and the ſame Zeal for the Proteſtant Succeſſion in Your Royal Family, which we our ſelves eſteem it our great Happineſs to entertain.

May the ſame wiſe and merciful God, who brought You ſo ſeaſonably to the Throne, and who hath hitherto ſo graciouſly preſerved Your ſacred Majeſty, continue His watchful Care over You: May He lay open to the very Bottom, and effectually diſappoint all the dark and malicious Deſigns of Your Enemies, and turn their Counſels into Fooliſhneſs: May the Crown, wherewith He hath adorned Your Royal Head, ſit long and eaſy and flouriſhing upon it: And may all Your Subjects be made ſenſible of the valuable Bleſſings which they enjoy under Your happy Government. May He eminently bleſs their Royal Highneſſes the Prince and Princeſs of *Wales*, and their Offspring, and make them the happy Inſtruments of much Good to the World, and to the Church in their Day: May Proteſtant Sovereigns, of Your Royal Line, always inherit Your Crown, and theſe illuſtrious Qualities with which Your Majeſty does now adorn it: May You be long

honoured to do eminent Service to God on Earth, and at length enjoy a great Reward in Heaven. So pray,

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful, moſt obedient, and moſt loyal Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders met in this National Aſſembly,

Signed in our Preſence, in our Name, and at our Appointment, by

JA. SMITH, Moderator.

V.

Additional-Directions *to Viſiters of Books, beſides theſe mentioned in the 4th Act of the General Aſſembly* 1713.

Edinburgh, May 11. 1723. Seſſ. 3.

I. THat the Viſiters of Synod-Books, take Notice, if the Acts of Aſſembly concerning licencing Probationers, be obſerved; particularly, That none be entred on Trials till they have ſtudied Divinity the uſual Time, and produce ample Teſtimonials, and the Advice of the Synod be taken, and the Queſtions appointed by Act of the General Aſſembly read to them before Trials; and that none be entred thereon, until they have reſided an Half-Year at leaſt, immediately before, in their Bounds: And that the whole Particulars in the 5th Act of the General Aſſembly *Anno* 1705. 10th Act of the General Aſſembly 1711. and 6th Act of the General Aſſembly 1714. be punctually obſerved; and that all give ſatisfying Anſwers to the Queſtions, and ſign the *Formula* contained in the foreſaid 10th Act of the General Aſſembly 1711. and no other, according to the 10th Act of the General Aſſembly 1717. and that Licences bear the ſame.

II. If due Care be taken for preſerving Purity of Doctrine, according to the 9th Act of the General Aſſembly *Anno* 1717. Acts 5th and 8th of the General Aſſembly 1720, and 7th Act of the General Aſſembly 1722.

III. If

III. If the 7th Act of the General Aſſembly *Anno* 1714, for diſcouraging unworthy Burſars, be obſerved; and 7th Act of the General Aſſembly 1715, for preferring Students having *Iriſh*, to Burſaries.

IV. That they take Notice of the Diligence of Synods and Presbyteries, in obſerving the 11th Act of the General Aſſembly 1714, 13th Act of the General Aſſembly 1715, 8th Act of the General Aſſembly 1717. 4th Act of the General Aſſembly 1719. and 7th Act of the General Aſſembly 1720, for procuring the better Execution of former Acts againſt Popery, and for preventing the Growth thereof, by taking up yearly Liſts of their Names and Deſignations, and giving in Copies of the ſame to the Juſtices of the Peace, or other Judges competent, and to the Synods; and if their Diligence herein be recorded.

V. If all Ruling Elders have ſigned the *Formula* contained in the 10th Act of the General Aſſembly 1694; and if Presbyteries at their Privy-Cenſures inquire into the Behaviour of their Members, and if all Ruling Elders and Deacons in their Bounds, keep Family-Worſhip, and obſerve the other Particulars mentioned in the 9th Act of the General Aſſembly 1722; and if Deacons be ordained in every Pariſh, as is appointed by Act 7th Aſſembly 1719.

VI. That they remark the Diligence of Synods and Presbyteries, with relation to reading the King's Proclamation, and Abbreviate of the Acts of Parliament and General Aſſembly againſt Immorality, and giving ſuitable Exhortations, according to the 5th Act of the General Aſſembly 1714.

VII. If Faſts and Thankſgivings be obſerved, according to the 7th Act of the General Aſſembly 1710, and 4th Act of the General Aſſembly 1722.

VIII. How the 4th Act of the General Aſſembly *Anno* 1719, concerning the Settlement and Proviſion of Schools, and the Encouragement of Miniſters in Pariſhes where there are Papiſts, is obſerved.

IX. How the 4th Act of the General Aſſembly *Anno* 1718, concerning a Fund for maintaining the indigent Widows and Orphans of Miniſters, is obſerved.

VI.

ACT *concerning the Election of a Repreſentative from the Univerſity of* Edinburgh, *in the General Aſſembly.*

Edinburgh, May 14. 1723. Seſſ. 5.

THE General Aſſembly did, and hereby do, Enact and Declare, That the Right of Election of a Repreſentative in the General Aſſemblies of this National Church, from the Univerſity of *Edinburgh*, is only in the Profeſſors, Principal, Regents, Maſters and Others bearing Office in the ſaid Univerſity, that is to ſay, The Chancellor, Rector and Dean of Faculty, if any ſuch there be, excluſive of all others. And diſcharge the Clerk of the General Aſſembly, in all Time hereafter, to receive in any Commiſſion to any Perſon, or to inſert any Perſon's Name in the Rolls of Aſſembly, as a Repreſentative from the ſaid Univerſity, in ſucceeding Aſſemblies, whoſe Commiſſion is given otherwiſe than is appointed by this Act.

VII.

ACT *concerning the Form of Commiſſions from Burghs and Univerſities to their Repreſentatives in the General Aſſembly.*

Edinburgh, May 17. 1723. Seſſ. 8.

THE General Aſſembly, for the greater Uniformity in Commiſſions to Members of the General Aſſembly, and Atteſtations of the ſame, do in the mean Time, until the Matter concerning Commiſſions from Burghs be further thought upon, appoint, That the Rules and Forms preſcribed by the 8th Act of the General Aſſembly *Anno* 1695. *Act* 6th, *General Aſſembly* 1704, *Act* 9th, *General Aſſembly* 1718. and 4th *Act*, *General Aſſembly* 1720, in Commiſſions from Presbyteries to their Repreſentatives in the General Aſſembly, be ſtrictly obſerved in Commiſſions to be given to Repreſentatives of Univerſities and Royal Burghs: And do appoint, That all Commiſſions to Members of the General Aſſembly, whether from Univerſities or Royal Burghs, and Atteſtations of the ſame, ſhall be conceived in the Terms preſcribed by the former Acts above-mentioned, *mutatis mutandis*.

VIII.

ACT *concerning the Church's publick Money.*

Edinburgh, May 17. 1723. Sess. 8.

THe General Assembly having had laid before them, a Report of the Committee appointed by the last Assembly, for examining the publick Accounts, which was referred by the said Assembly to their Commission, together with the said Commission their Judgment thereupon, and upon the several Petitions and Claims for Money laid before the said Assembly; and having considered the several Acts of Assembly with relation to the Disposal of the Church's publick Money, do find, that there are many Demands made upon that Fund, which it will not answer for several Years to come: And therefore, the Assembly do Resolve and Appoint, That not only, no more Orders shall be granted by the General Assemblies of this Church, and Commissions thereof, until all the Claims already stated, be first paid; but also, seeing that now the Vacancies in the North, the Highlands, and Islands are for the most Part planted, and that when any Vacancies shall happen in these Places, it will be more easy to get the same planted, than formerly it was, therefore the General Assembly do hereby rescind and repeal the 5th Article of the 8th Act of the General Assembly held *Anno* 1698, which relates to the Allowances to Ministers or Probationers to be sent to the foresaid Places, and likewise the 6th Article of the 11th Act of the General Assembly 1699, and the 5th Act of the General Assembly *Anno* 1715, in so far as concerns the said Allowances.

IX.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Elders, for diſcuſſing diverſe Affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, May 18. 1723. Seſſ. 12.

THE General Aſſembly, taking to their Conſideration, that there are diverſe weighty Affairs, which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate and appoint their Reverend Brethren, Maſters *James Smith* at *Cramond* their Moderator, *Patrick Warner* at *Irving*, *Andrew Ewart* at *Kells*, *Patrick Johnſton* at *Girthon*, *George Gartſhore* at *Anwoth*, *William Campbell* at *Kirkinder*, *Samuel Brown* at *Kirkmabreck*, *Walter Laury* at *Stranraer*, *George Crawford* at *Stephenkirk*, *Andrew Rodger* at *Galſtoun*, *Henry Osburn* at *Torbolton*, *John Steil* at *Cumnock*, *William Cupples* at *Kirkoſwald*, *John M'Dermit* at *Air*, *James Ruat* at *Dunlop*, *William Reid* at *Stevenſton*, *John Chieſly* at *Finwick*, *John Paiſley* at *Lochinnoch*, *John Miller* at *Nielſton*, *Robert Wodrow* at *Eaſtwood*, *John Muirhead* at *Cambuſnethan*, *David Brody* at *Dalſerf*, *Richard Henderſon* at *Blantyre*, *Robert Gray* at *Wiſtoun*, *James Gartſhore* at *Carmichael*, *Patrick Scot* at *Carnwath*, *John Simpſon* Profeſſor of Divinity in the College of *Glaſgow*, *John Hamilton* at *Glaſgow*, *David Ewing* at *Calder*, *John Stirling* Principal of the College of *Glaſgow*, *Robert Wallace* at *Badernock*, *George Park* at *Killearn*, *Archibald Sideſerff* at *Dumbartoun*, *Walter Campbell* at *Dunoon*, *Alexander M'Kay* at *Kilfinan*, *John Campbell* at *Killarow*, *Niel Simpſon* at *Gigha*, *Alexander Campbell* at *Inverary*, *James Gettie* there, *Daniel Moriſon* at *Kilbranden*, *William Moriſon* at *Tirree*, *Archibald M'Queen* at *Snizort*, *Kenneth Bethune* at *Kilmain*, *William Chalmers* at *Kinloch*, *John Gow* at *Cargill*, *Patrick Stewart* at *Auchtergaven*, *John Gardner* at *Monedie*, *David Meldrum* at *Tippermuir*, *James Mercer* at *Aberdalgie*, *Thomas Finlayſon* at *Dumbarny*, *James Macky* at *Forteviot*, *Archibald Moncrief* at *Blackford*, *William Hunter* at *Gask*, *David Guthrie* at *Muckart*, *John Logan* at St. *Ninians*, *John Gray* at *Dollar*, *Michael Potter* at *Kippen*, *John Taylor* at *Tillicultry*, *Allan Logan* at *Culroſs*, *William Henderſon* at *Dalgatie*, *John Geddes* at *Culroſs*, *James Henry* at *Kinghorn*, *Thomas Nairn* at *Abbotſhall*, *Robert Balfour* at *Ballingry*, *Alexander Anderſon* at *Falkland*, *Joſias Walker* at *Abdie*, *John Stark* at *Logie*, *Thomas Thomſon* at *Auchtermuchty*, *Joſeph Drew* Principal of St. *Leonard's* Col-

College in St. *Andrew*'s, *Patrick Coupar* at *Pittenweem*, *William Vilant* at *Ferry-partoncraigs*, *William Dalgleiſh* at *Carnbee*, *James Hadow* Principal of the New-College of St. *Andrews*, *James Gray* at *Kittins*, *David Thomſon* at *Meegle*, *George Clephan* at *Newtild*, *Hugh Maxwel* at *Forfar*, *Thomas Mitchel* at *Aberlemno*, *Robert Kinloch* at *Dundee*, *Patrick Johnſton* at *Aucbterhouſe*, *Thomas Mitchel* at *Abernyte*, *Charles Charters* at *Abereliot*, *Charles Irving* at *Lunan*, *John Gillies* at *Caraldſton*, *David Fergusſon* at *Farnal*, *John Thomſon* at *Edghill*, *James Douglas* at *Arbuthnot*, *David Burn* at *Fetterreſſo*, *William Trail* at *Benholm*, *Thomas Blackwel* Principal of the New College of *Aberdeen*, *David Anderſon* Profeſſor of Divinity in the King's College of *Aberdeen*, *Alexander Mitchel at Old-Aberdeen*, *John Osburn* at *New-Aberdeen*, *George Chalmers* Principal of the King's College of *Aberdeen*, *James Robertſon* at *Glenmuick*, *Alexander Toaſh* at *Tarland*, *William Mair* at *Kincardine-oniel*, *James Gordon* at *Alford*, *George Moir* at *Towie*, *Daniel M'Swaine* at *Strathdon*, *James Burnet* at *Ellon*, *John Webſter* at *Cruden*, *William Anderſon* at *Daviot*, *Arthur Forbes at Oyn*, *Gilbert Gerard* at *Chapple of Garioch*, *William Leſlie* at St. *Fergus*, *Alexander Auchinleck* at *Fraſersburgh*, *James Leſlie* at *Crimond*, *George Johnſtoun* at *Kinneder*, *Alexander Forbes* at *Forgue*, *Patrick Darling* at *Boyndly*, *James Innes* at *Bamff*, *John Gilchriſt* at *Kieth*, *John Scrogie* at *Dumbennan*, *James Chapman* at *Cromdale*, *Charles Primroſe* at *Elgin*, *David Dunlop* at *Birny*, *David Henderſon* at *Auldearn*, *Alexander Schaw* at *Edenkilly*, *William Stewart* at *Inverneſs*, *Alexander M'Bean* there, *George Gordon* at *Cromarty*, *Thomas Inglis* at *Cullicouden*, *John Bain* at *Dingwal*, *Alexander Fraſer* at *Urquhart*, *Thomas Chiſholm* at *Kilmorack*, *Daniel Bethune* at *Roſkeen*, *Hugh Monro* at *Tain*, *Robert Robertſon* at *Loath*, *John M'Kay* at *Larg*, *William M'Beath* at *Olrig*, *Andrew Sutherland* at *Latheron*, *Thomas Baikie* at *Kirkwal*, *John Pitcairn* at *Graemſay*, *William Blaw* at *Weſteray*, *John Duncan* at *Breſſay*, *John Chalmers* at *Campvere*, *William Hamilton* Profeſſor of Divinity in the College of *Edinburgh*, *William Mitchel* at *Edinburgh*, *John Schaw* at *South-Leith*, *William Guſthart* at *Edinburgh*, *James Bannatyne* there, *John Mathiſon* there, *William Wiſheart* Principal of the College of *Edinburgh*, *James Houſton* at *Kirkliſton*, *James Naſmith* at *Dalmeny*, *Thomas Laurie* at *Bathgate*, *Robert Hunter* at *Livingſton*, *Robert Livingſton* at *Biggar*, *James Forreſter* at *Coulter*, *Alexander Walker* at *Kircurd*, *John Wallace* at *Drummelzier*, *John Hay* at *Peebles*, *Patrick Cuming* at *Ormiſtoun*, *David Walker* at *Temple*, *David Hutchiſon* at *Dalkeith*, *John Junkiſon* at *Athelſtonfoord*, *James Alſton* at *Dirleton*, *Andrew Dunlop* at *Garvet*, *George Turnbul* at *Tiningham*, *George*

Logan at *Dunbar*, *Laurence Johnſton* at *Dunſe*, *Walter Hart* at *Bunkle*, *Robert Park* at *Foulden*, *George Hume* at *Chirnſide*, *Henry Veitch* at *Swinton*, *Robert Colvil* at *Tetholm*, *James Ramſay* at *Kelſo*, *John Cranſton* at *Ancrum*, *Daniel M'Kay* at *Jedburgh*, *Charles Telfer* at *Hawick*, *James Ker* at *Nenthorn*, *John Gaudie* at *Earlſtoun*, *George Byres* at *Leſſudden*, *Robert Scot* at *Robertdon*, *Thomas Howie* at *Annan*, *Alexander Meikle* at *Langholm*, *George Young* at *Hutton*, *David Wightman* at *Applegirth*, *John Whitehead* at *Mouſwel*, *James Guthrie* at *Irongray*, *Alexander Robertſon* at *Tinwald*, *Patrick Liu* at *Dumfries*, *Thomas Tod* at *Derriſdeer*, and *Robert Jarden* at *Glencairn*, Miniſters: His Grace *John* Duke of *Athol*, the moſt Honourable *John* Marquis of *Tweeddale*, the right Honourable *David* Earl of *Buchan*, *Charles* Earl of *Lauderdale*, *Thomas* Earl of *Haddington*, *James* Earl of *Finlator*, *Patrick* Earl of *Marchmont*, *James* Earl of *Hyndford*, *David* Earl of *Glaſgow*, Lord *Charles Ker* Director of His Majeſty's Chancery, *William* Lord *Roſs*, *James* Lord *Torphichen*, *George* Lord *Reay*, *James* Lord *Lyle*, Sir *Hugh Dalrymple* of *North-Berwick* Baronet, Lord Preſident of the Seſſion, Mr. *Robert Dundas* Younger of *Arniſtoun* His Majeſty's Advocate, *Adam Cockburn* of *Ormiſtoun* Lord Juſtice Clerk, Sir *John Maxwel* of *Pollock* Baronet, Sir *Alexander Ogilvie* of *Forglen* Baronet, Mr. *James Erskine* of *Grange*, Sir *Francis Grant* of *Cullen* Baronet, Mr. *James Hamilton* of *Pancaitland*, ſix of the Senators of the College of Juſtice; Sir *John Clerk* of *Pennycook* Baronet one of the Barons of his Majeſty's Exchequer, Mr. *John Campbell* of *Mamore*, Colonel *Patrick Ogilvie* of *Inchleſly*, Mr. *Arthur Forbes* of *Breda*, Colonel *John Erskine* of *Carnock*, *Samuel M'clellan* of *Barclay*, *John Martine* of *Aries*, Mr. *Andrew Roſs* of *Balſarroch*, Mr. *James Boſwel* of *Auchinleck* Advocate, Mr. *George Hutchiſon* of *Monkwood* Advocate, *Alexander Finlayſon* of *Nielſtonſide*, Sir *David Stewart* of *Cultneſs* Baronet, *Hugh Montgomery* of *Hartfield*, *John Aird* Provoſt of *Glaſgow*, Mr. *George Smollet* of *Ingliſtoun* Advocate, Sir *James Campbel* of *Ardkinglaſs* Baronet, *John Campbel* Late Lord Provoſt of *Edinburgh*, *Alexander M'millan* of *Dunmore*, Mr. *Alexander Campbel* Advocate, *William M'Cleod* of *Hamir*, *Patrick Yeaman* of *Eaſtmiln*, *Robert Robertſon* Provoſt of *Perth*, *John Gardner* of *Few*, Sir *James Campbel* of *Aberuchil* Baronet, Sir *Henry Rollo* of *Woodſide*, Colonel *John Blaccader*, Sir *James Livingſton* of *Glentirran* Baronet, *George Balfour* of *Balbirny*, Mr. *Robert Hay* of *Naughton*, *David Ballingall* of *Edenſhead*, Mr. *Patrick Halden* Advocate, Captoun *John Nairn* in *Elie*, *William Young* Merchant in *Coupar*, *Alexander Farrier* Baillie in *Dundee*, *David Maxwel* Provoſt there, *William Wallace* Provoſt of *Aberbrothwick*,

Co-

Colonel *Robert Reid* Provoſt of *Montroſe*, Mr. *Arthur Shepherd* Sheriff-Depute of *Mearns*, *George Fordice* Provoſt of *Aberdeen*, *Robert Stewart* late Provoſt there, Mr. *George Gordon* Profeſſor of the Oriental Languages at *Aberdeen*, *Arthur Forbes* Elder of *Echt*, Captain *John Forbes* of *Boyndly*, Mr. *Alexander Garden* of *Troup* Advocate, Mr. *Patrick Grant* of *Eaſter-Elchies* Advocate, *Ludovick Dunbar* of *Weſtfield* Sheriff-Principal of *Murray*, *James Brodie* of *Whitehill*, *Hugh Roſs* of *Kilravock*, *Duncan Forbes* Baillie of *Fortroſe*, Colonel *Robert Monro* of *Fowlis* Younger, *George Monro* of *Culcairn*, Captain *David Roſs* of *Little-Davach*, Mr. *Robert Honyman* of *Græmſay*, Captain *James Craigie* Merchant in *Lerwick*, Doctor *Alexander Dundas* His Majeſty's Phyſician, Mr *Alexander Nisbet* Chirurgeon late Conveener in *Edinburgh*, Mr. *Robert Stewart* Profeſſor of Philoſophy in the College of *Edinburgh*, *John Wightman* of *Mauldſly* Lord Provoſt of *Edinburgh*, *Andrew Wardrop* preſent Deacon-Conveener there, *George Dundas* of that Ilk, Mr. *John Mitchell* of *Alderſtoun*, *William Baillie* of *Lamingtoun*, Sir *James Stewart* of *Goodtrees* Baronet, Mr. *Robert Hepburn* Writer to the Signet, Mr *John Hamilton* of *Pancaitland* Younger, *Ludovick Cant* of *Thurſtoun*, Mr. *John Dickſon* of *Antonſhill*, Sir *John Stewart* of *Allanbank* Baronet, Mr. *Andrew Hume* Chirurgion in *Kelſo*, *Archibald Douglas* of *Cavers*, Mr. *Thomas Halyburton* of *Newmains* Advocate, *Robert Rutherford* of *Fernylees*, Sir *William Johnſton* of *Weſterhall* Baronet, *James Currie* Provoſt of *Dumfries*, and *Robert M'Gachan* of *Dalquhat*, Ruling Elders, to be Commiſſioners of this General Aſſembly, to the Effects after-mentioned; with Power to the ſaid Commiſſion, or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared to be any Thirty one of the ſaid Commiſſioners, whereof Twenty one are always to be Miniſters, to meet and conveen within the Aſſembly-Houſe at *Edinburgh*, the firſt free Day after the Diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at Ten of the Clock Forenoon; and afterwards the ſecond *Wedneſdays* of *Auguſt*, *November* and *March*, next to come, and oftner, when and where they ſhall think fit and convenient; with Power to the ſaid Commiſſioners to chooſe their own Moderator. And ſicklike, the General Aſſembly fully impowers and authorizes their ſaid Commiſſion, or their *Quorum* above-mentioned, to cognoſce and finally determine, as they ſhall ſee Cauſe, in every Matter referred, or that ſhall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this Aſſembly; and to do every Thing contained in, and conform to the Inſtructions given, or to be given, by this Aſſembly; and to advert to the Intereſts of the Church on every Occaſion, that the Church, and preſent Eſtabliſhment thereof, do not ſuffer or ſuſtain any Prejudice, which

they can prevent, as they will be anſwerable: Providing always, this General Clauſe be not extended to particular Affairs, or Proceſſes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of univerſal Concern to, or Influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, That what ſhall be determined at one Diet of the ſaid Commiſſion, with Relation to private Cauſes, ſhall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and ſhal ſtand and continue in Force, till diſapproven by the General Aſſembly. And the General Aſſembly renews the Inſtructions given by the General Aſſembly One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventeen, to their Commiſſion; and appoints the ſame to ſtand in full Force, as Inſtructions to the Commiſſioners abovenamed, and to be obſerved by them in all Points, as if the ſame were ſpecially herein inſert: And that they enquire into the publiſhing and ſpreading of Books and Pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of Opinions, of whatever Kind, inconſiſtent with our *Confeſſion of Faith*: And that the Recommenders of ſuch Books or Pamplets, or the Errors therein contained, whether by Word, Writ, or Print, be called before the ſaid Commiſſion, to anſwer for the ſame. And further the ſaid Commiſſion is hereby impower'd to receive any References and Appeals, that ſhall be made to them from Synods, in Matters of Doctrine, and ripen ſuch Affairs for the General Aſſembly: Likewiſe to take Care that the Impreſſions of the holy Scriptures, the *Confeſſion of Faith* and *Catechiſms*, and ſuch Books as are authorized by this Church, relating to the Doctrine, Worſhip, Diſcipline and Government thereof, be correct; and to give Directions about printing the ſame: They are alſo appointed, at their firſt Meeting, to take under Conſideration all the Repreſentations of the Growth of Popery within the Bounds of this National Church, and of Meeting-Houſes not authorized by Law, which have been brought up to this and former Aſſemblies, or Commiſſions thereof, or that may be further offered to this Commiſſion; and to apply to the Government for a proper Remedy, and ſpeedy Redreſs. And the ſaid Commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged to meddle in any other Matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above-metioned; and in all their Actings, they are to proceed according to the Acts and Conſtitutions of this National Church, and do no Thing contrary thereto, or to the Prejudice of the ſame: Declaring, that in, and for all their Actings, they ſhall be accountable to, and cenſurable by the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhall ſee cauſe. And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure until another Commiſſion be appointed; and Members are required to attend the Diets of the ſaid Commiſſion,

miſſion, and Abſents therefrom ordered to be noticed; according to the Seventeenth Act of the General Aſſembly One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix. And for the better Securing of a *Quorum*, and Attendance of Members on the Commiſſion, the General Aſſembly prohibites the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, and other Presbyteries within Twelve Miles thereof, to meet any of the Days or Weeks appointed for the Meeting of this Commiſſion, and ſuch of the Members of theſe Presbyteries as are on the Commiſſion, are required all of them to give punctual Attendance on the Diets thereof; and Presbyteries at a greater Diſtance, who have four or more Members on the Commiſſion, are to take Care that at leaſt two of them attend each Diet of the ſame.

X.

ACT *Enlarging the Time allowed by the 4th Act of Aſſembly* Anno 1718, *for contributing to the Fund for maintaining the indigent Widows and Orphans of Miniſters.*

Edinburgh, May 20. 1723. Seſſ. 11.

THE General Aſſembly having heard and conſidered a Propoſal made by ſome of the Contributers in the Synod of *Lothian* to the Fund for maintaining the indigent Widows & Orphans of Miniſters, ſetting forth, That there are divers Miniſters, who have neglected in due Time to pay in the Decimas of their Stipends, according to the 4th Act of the General Aſſembly *Anno* 1718, and are now deſireous to contribute; but the receiving thereof is prohibited by the ſaid Act: And the ſaid Contributers being unwilling that any ſhould be deprived of the Opportunity of Contributing to ſo neceſſary and charitable a Fund, and therefore propoſing, that any Miniſter who pleaſes, may be yet allowed another Year to pay in the *Decima* of their Stipends, provided they pay in therewith the Annualrent thereof from the Time it ſhould firſt have been paid: The General Aſſembly did, and hereby do, enlarge the Time allowed by the foreſaid Act of Aſſembly, for Miniſters paying in their Contributions, in Synods,

where no ſuch Contributions have yet been made, until the Term of *Whitſunday* 1725. and as to ſuch Synods, where the ſaid Contributions have in part been made, the General Aſſembly recommend to the Miniſters who have contributed, that they would willingly conſent, yet to admit ſuch as ſhall pay in the *Deicma* of their Stipends, to the Ends abovementioned, betwixt and the Term of *Whitſunday* next to come 1724, with the Annualrent thereof from the Time it ſhould firſt have been paid, to join with them in the foreſaid pious and charitable Deſign, upon the Foot of the foreſaid Act of Aſſembly, made to that Effect.

XI.

ACT *anent Mr.* Gabriel Wilſon *Miniſter at* Maxton, *his Sermon, preached before the Synod of* Merſe *and* Teviotdale.

At *Edinburgh, May* 21. 1723, Seſſ. 12.

THe General Aſſembly having had under Conſideration, a Reference made by the Synod of *Merſe* and *Teviotdale* to the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly, and by them tranſmitted to this Aſſembly, containing ſome Remarks of that Synod upon a Sermon preached before them by Mr. *Gabriel Wilſon* Miniſter at *Maxtoun* in *October* 1721. find Three Points of Doctrine, wherein the Synod repreſent, that he did not ſatisfy them as to his Orthodoxy, *viz.* 1*mo*, That the Moral Law to a Believer is diveſted of the Curſe or Threatning of eternal Damnation, and hath no other Sanction but Fatherly Chaſtiſement. 2*do*, That Goſpel or Saving-Repentance is not neceſſary in a Sinner, in Order to the Pardon of his Sins, in Juſtification. 3*tio*, That Aſſurance, or a Man's Perſwaſion, that he ſhall be ſaved by Chriſt, is of the Eſſence of Juſtifying Faith. And the General Aſſembly having heard what was contained in the Remarks of the Synod, and offered by them upon theſe three Points of Doctrine, and having alſo heard Mr. *Gabriel Wilſon* at full Length thereupon, thought fit to appoint a Committee of their Number to converſe further with Mr. *Gabriel Wilſon*, and prepare an Overture upon the Whole; and having heard the Report of the Committee, wherein they repre-

repreſented, that Mr. *Wilſon* pleads, that theſe Points of Doctrine are not expreſt in his Sermon; and that it was purely in Obedience to the Synod's Command, that he had ſaid any Thing about them before the Synod, or their Committee. And as to the firſt Propoſition concerning the Sanction of the Law, he declared before the Committee, that he did not tenaciouſly adhere to that Expreſſion, That the Moral Law is diveſted of the Threatning of Eternal Damnation as to the Believer; and that all his Meaning is, That a Believer, by his Union with Chriſt, is for ever delivered from the Curſe of the Law, ſo that he ſhall never for one Moment come under the Sentence of Eternal Condemnation. As to the ſecond Propoſition, he declared, That Juſtifying-Faith, and Goſpel-Repentance, are inſeparable both in their Principles and Exerciſe. And being asked, if he would own it as a Truth, that God did never juſtify an impenitent Sinner; he anſwered, That he could not expreſs himſelf in theſe Terms, or in any Words that might ſeem to import that a Sinner was juſtified by any Works of his own; and that the Cautioning againſt that, was the main Thing he had in his View, in expreſſing himſelf ſo, as he did in his Sermon, and to the Synod. And as to the third Propoſition, he declared, that he owned all that is contained in our *Confeſſion of Faith* and *Catechiſms*, upon that Head. And at the ſame Time adhered to the Anſwers given in to the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly *Anno* 1721. upon that Point, by the Twelve Miniſters then before them, of which he was one: And the Committee in the Report having further repreſented, that they having reaſoned upon what Mr. *Wilſon* had laid before them, though they had not received Satisfaction from him upon theſe Points; yet, conſidering that all the foreſaid three Points had been under the particular Conſideration of the laſt General Aſſembly, and that they had paſſed an Act thereupon, and that this Proceſs concerning Mr. *Gabriel Wilſon* was commenced and depending before the Synod of *Merſe* and *Teviotdale* before that Act; upon the whole, they declared their Opinion, That the General Aſſembly ſhould admoniſh the ſaid Mr. *Gabriel Wilſon*, and prohibite and diſcharge him to uſe, by Writing, Printing, Preaching, Catechiſing, or otherwiſe Teaching, either publickly or privately, any Expreſſion upon theſe three Points of Doctrine, that are inconſiſtent with, or contrary unto, the Points of Doctrine maintained in this Church, aggreeable to the *Word of God*, and the *Confeſſion of Faith* and *Catechiſms* thereof, and contrary to what was determined in the Act of the General Aſſembly *Anno* 1722, upon theſe Subjects; and that he ſhould be admoniſhed to keep the Form of ſound Words,

and to beware of expreſſing himſelf upon any Occaſion in ſuch Terms as may be of bad Influence on Chriſtian Practice, or any Ways tend to weaken the Life and Power of Godlineſs, and be of dangerous Conſequence to the great Intereſts of precious Souls: Which Report of the Committee, the General Aſſembly having heard, and maturely conſidered, they did and hereby do agree thereto, and enact accordingly; and the ſaid Mr. *Gabriel Wilſon*, being called in, was admoniſhed and prohibited by the Moderator, in the Terms of this Act.

XII.

ACT *appointing the Diet of the next General Aſſembly.*

Edinburgh, May 21. 1723. Seſſ. 12. *& Ult.*

THE next General Aſſembly of this National Church is appointed to be held at *Edinburgh*, upon the ſecond *Thurſday* of *May* next to come, One thouſand ſeven hundred and twenty four Years.

This General Aſſembly was concluded with Prayer, and ſinging of the 68th Pſalm, from the 18th Verſe to the 21ſt, and pronouncing of the Bleſſing.

Collected and Extracted from the Records of the General Aſſembly, by

JO. DUNDAS, *Cls. Eccl. Scot.*

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OF

The Acts of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, *held in the Year* 1723, *which are not here printed.*

AFter Sermon by Mr. *William Mitchel*, one of the Ministers of *Edinburgh*, Moderator of the preceeding Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders, Members of this Assembly, did conveen, and Mr. *James Smith*, Minister at *Cramond*, was chosen Moderator, *May* 9th, 1723. *Sess.* 1.

His Grace His Majesty's Commissioner's Speech to the General Assembly, at the opening thereof. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Return to the Lord Commissioner's Speech. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed for drawing an Answer to His Majesty's gracious Letter. *Ibid.*

A Committee for Overtures appointed. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed for Bills, References and Appeals. *Ibid.*

The *Act* 7. *Assembly* 1718. ordering the speedy bringing in of Business, read; and the punctual Observation thereof enjoined. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to examine the Form of the Commissions given to the Members of this Assembly, and try how they agree with the Acts of Assembly; censure Absents from this Assembly, or Diets thereof; to name Ministers to preach before His Majesty's Commissioner; and to receive in Lists of Probationers and Students of Divinity, in order to their being recorded; and to bring in their Report as to Commissions, first to the Committee for Overtures. *Ibid.*

A Diet appointed for Prayer. *Ibid.*

A Diet spent in Prayer, *May* 10. *Sess.* 2.

Ministers named to preach before the King's Commissioner. *Ibid.*

Some more Commissions produced, and Members added to Committees. *Ibid.*

More Commissions produced, and Additions made to Committees, *May* 11. *Sess.* 3.

An Answer to His Majesty's gracious Letter, unanimously approven, and signed by the Moderator. *Ibid.*

A congratulatory Addreſs to His Majeſty, upon the happy Diſcovery of the late horrible Conſpiracy againſt His Perſon and Government, approving an Addreſs by the late Commiſſion, upon the ſame Subject, is brought in from the Committee for Overtures, and unanimouſly approven; and being ſigned by the Moderator, the Lord Commiſſioner undertook to tranſmit both the Anſwer and Addreſs to His Majeſty; and Copies of both were ordered to be ſent, with Letters, to the principal Secretaries of State. *Ibid.*

A Committe, choſen out of the ſeveral Synods, appointed to reviſe the Regiſter of the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly; to audite the Procurator and Agent for the Church, their Accounts; conſider the State of the Church's publick Money, and prepare any Overtures and References made by the late Commiſſion to this Aſſembly. *Ibid.*.

Committees appointed to reviſe the Synod-Books of *Galloway*, *Glaſgow* and *Air*, *Perth* and *Stirling*, *Fife*, *Angus* and *Merns*, *Aberdeen*, *Murray*, *Roſs* and *Sutherland*, *Caithneſs* and *Orkney*, *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, and *Drumfries*; and Presbytery-Book of *Zetland*: But the Synod-Book of *Argyle* not being brought up, it was ordered that the ſame ſhould be laid before the next Aſſembly: And the Committees were ordered, in their Examination of the Books, to obſerve the Directions, given in Fourth Act of Aſſembly 1713, and other Additional-Rules now eſtabliſhed; both which were read to them. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to receive in from the Commiſſioners from the ſeveral Presbyteries and Synods, Inſtructions to them, or any Overtures they have to offer from them; and to claſs the Matters therein-contained, and prepare Overtures therefrom to the Aſſembly: And alſo to receive in any Accounts that ſhould be offered to them of the State of the Church in the North, the Highlands and Iſlands; particularly concerning the Growth of Popery and Superſtition, and conſider the ſame, and prepare Overtures for ſuppreſſing and preventing thereof: And likewiſe to receive in from the Viſiters of the Commiſſion-Book the Returns ſent from Synods and Presbyteries to the Commiſſion's Letters, and conſider the ſame, and prepare Overtures therefrom, and bring in their Report, firſt to the Committee for Overtures, that they may prepare the ſame for the Aſſembly; and all Brethren who had any Overtures or Inſtructions from their Conſtituents, were ordered to attend that Committee at all its Meetings. *Ibid.*

An Overture of the Commiſſion, touching the Right of Election of a Repreſentative from the Univerſity of *Edinburgh*, to the Commiſſion of this Church, offered; and the Conſideration thereof delay'd until *Tueſday* next. *Ibid.*

A Report from the Commiſſion, as to ſome Heads of a Sermon preached by Mr. *Gabriel Wilſon* Miniſter at *Maxtoun*, before the Synod of *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, referred to their Conſideration by the late Aſſembly, was offered, and the Matter delayed until *Monday* next. *Ibid.*

The Proceſs for tranſporting Mr. *George Gartſhore* from *Anwoth* to *Kirkcubright*, is moved and delay'd. *Ibid.*

The Names of all the Presbyteries, Univerſities and Burghs, whoſe Commiſſions are defective, were read out; and the Commiſſioners were deſired to attend the Committee for Inſtructions, to be heard upon the Objections made againſt the ſame. *Ibid.*

More Commiſſions produced, and Additions made to Committees, *May* 13. *Seſſ.* 4.

A Committees is appointed to conſider Three Heads of Doctrine contained in Mr. *Gabriel Wilſon*'s Sermon before his Synod; with Power, if they find it neceſſary, to call and hear him, and prepare an Overture thereupon. *Ibid.*

The Aſſembly's Procedure and Determination concerning the Right of Election of a Repreſentative in the General Aſſembly from the Univerſity of *Edinburgh*, *May* 14. *Seſſ.* 5.

The Act ordering the Aſſembly-houſe, read; and the Obſervation thereof ſtrictly enjoin'd, *May* 15. *Seſſ.* 6.

Miniſters named to preach before the King's Commiſſioner. *Ibid.*

Mr. *George Gartſhore* is tranſported from *Anwoth* to *Kirkcudbright*. *Ibid.*

Some Brethren are named to confer with the Commiſſioners from the Presbyteries within the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*, and to give them Advice in a Caſe that concerned the deceaſt Mr. *James Traill* Miniſter at *Monroſe*. *Ibid.*

A new Commiſſion produced, and Additions made to Committees, *May* 16. *Seſſ.* 7.

The Report of the Viſitors of the Commiſſion Book is received, and the Book is atteſted, with a Diſapprobation of the Commiſſion's Procedure in reponing Mr. *William Ruſſel* Miniſter at *Stobo*, againſt a Sentence of Depoſition pronounced againſt him by a Committee of the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, and afterwards approven by the ſaid Synod, upon Grounds poſterior to

the foresaid Sentence, *viz.* His Profession of Repentance, and Acknowledgment of the Faults for which he was deposed, which he would by no Means be brought unto before the Synod, and for Want of which he had been deposed; and with a Reservation to the Assembly's After-Consideration of the Commission's Procedure in holding the Presbytery of *Edinburgh* as Parties in the Case of Mr. *John Hepburn* Minister at *Torriburn* his Call to the City of *Edinburgh*; tho' the Case was only referred by them to the Commission: But the Commission gets the Thanks of the Assembly for their Care and Diligence in Prosecution of what had been committed to them. *Ibid.*

A Committee is appointed to consider the Case of Mr. *Hepburn*'s Call to be one of the Ministers of *Edinburgh*. *Ibid.*

The Members of the Assembly are ordered to meet by their Synods severally, to name Persons in their respective Bounds to be a Committee for nominating the Members of the Commission to be appointed by this Assembly, and preparing the Draught of their Commission, as is directed by the Sixth Act of Assembly 1705, concerning the Regulation of the Commission. *Ibid.*

A Letter from the Duke of *Sax-Gotha* to the Assembly, thanking them for their charitable Contributions already remitted for the Use of the Colony of *French* Protestants at *Hildburghausen*, in his Dominions; and desiring that the Assembly would recommend to the Deficients, that they would pay in their Collections; was presented to the Assembly by *John Martin* of *Aries*, Collector of the said Charity appointed by the Assemblies 1719 and 1720, together with a Letter from the Consistory of the Congregation of the said Colony, of the same Import, and another from Monsieur *D' Ebeynne* Agent for that Colony; and a Committee is named to consider the whole Affair. *Ibid.*

Publick Intimation made to any of the Brethren, who had brought with them the Collections in their respective Presbyteries, for encouraging the new Erections designed in the Parish of *Duirness* in *Strathnaver*, and for the Society in *Scotland* for propagating Christian Knowledge, to give in the same to the Collectors thereof. *Ibid.*

The Sentence of the late Assembly, transporting Mr. *John Chalmers* from his Charge in the *Scots* Congregation at *Campvere* in *Zealand*, and transporting him to the Parish of *Duffus*, is taken off, upon new emergent Grounds; and he is continued at *Campvere*; and a Letter is ordered to be written to the Magistrates of that City, in Re-

turn to one from them to the Aſſembly, and another to the Laird of *Thundertoun*. *Ibid.*

In Compliance with the Deſire of the Conſiſtory of the *Scots* Congregation at *Rotterdam* in *Holland*, expreſt in the Petition, the Commiſſion is inſtructed to cognoſce and finally determine in any Reference or Appeal that ſhould be brought before them, for planting a Vacancy in their Church. *Ibid.*

Liſt of Perſons in the ſeveral Synods are brought in, and appointed as a Committee for drawing the Commiſſion to be given by this Aſſembly, naming the Perſons to be thereon, and preparing Inſtructions to them. *May* 17th, *Antemerid.* Seſſ. 8.

The Report of the Committee for reviſing Commiſſions, and of the Committee for Overtures, with Relation to the Commiſſions to Members of this Aſſembly from their Conſttuents, being laid before the Aſſembly, they appointed theſe Members, whoſe Commiſſions did not bear their having ſigned the reſpective *Formulas* preſcribed by the Acts of Aſſembly, to ſubſcribe the ſame, before voting any more in the Aſſembly; according to the 9th Act Aſſembly 1718, and 6th Act Aſſembly 1719: And Presbyteries are required to take Care, that ſuch as come from their Bounds, to be Members of Aſſemblies, have an Intereſt therein, and be otherwiſe duly qualified, according to the Acts of Aſſembly. The Commiſſion given by the Burgh of *Rothſay* to their Commiſſioner, is rejected, in regard the Presbytery and Kirk-ſeſſion their Atteſtations thereof do not bear that he has an Intereſt in the Burgh, nor in the Bounds of the Presbytery, as is required by the 6th Act of the Aſſembly 1720; but the other Commiſſions mentioned in the Report are ſuſtained for this Time: And Letters are ordered to be written to Presbyteries, whoſe Commiſſion or Atteſtations are informal or defective, injoining them in Time coming to obſerve the Acts of Aſſembly, in drawing the ſame; and to Presbyteries, who are either totally abſent, or not fully repreſented, enjoining them in Time coming to be careful to ſend up their full Number of Members to ſubſequent Aſſemblies, *Ibid.*

A new Diet is aſſigned for the Committee about Mr. *Hepburn*'s Call. *Ibid.*

A Diet is appointed for hearing a Proceſs and Appeal about planting the Pariſh of *Lochmaben*. *Ibid.*

The commencing of any more Proceſſes upon the Church's publick Money, until firſt the Caſe be conſidered particularly by the General Aſſembly, and be found by them to be in the Terms of the Acts for regulating and the

right Management of the foreſaid Money, is diſcharged. And it is declared, That the Procurator or Agent for the Church are not obliged to carry on any Proceſſes already commenced, further than the Money ordered to be yearly lodged in the Agent's Hands will go; unleſs the Purſuer, or others concerned, do advance Money for that End, until the Debts already contracted by the Church, and ſtated, be wholly paid. *Ibid.*

The Proceſſes for ſettling of the Stipends of the Pariſhes of *Rathven*, *Alvie*, *Urquhart* and *Logie*, and *Glenmuick*, where Popery abounds, who are in the Terms of the Acts of Aſſembly; Proceſſes for Settlement of the Stipends of the Miniſters of *Snizort*, *Walls* and *Flotta*, and for eaſing theſe Miniſters of their Grievances. For new Erections in the Presbyteries of *Skye* and *Lorn*, and Pariſhes of *Duirneſs* in *Strathnaver*, and for Annexations and Diſjunctions in the Pariſhes of *Creich* and *Kincardin*, *Kilmorack* and *Kiltarlaty*, Countries where Popery abounds, are allowed to be carried on upon the publick Charges of the Church, providing that theſe concerned do advance the Money for carrying on the ſame, until the Debts already contracted be ſatisfied: But the Demands by the Miniſters of *Killiemuir*-Weſter, *Tirree* and *Contane*, and the Preſbytery of *Dunkeld*, and Claims of Mr. *Hugh Corſe*, Mr. *George Meik*, and Mr. *William Innes*, are refuſed to be allowed, in reſpect of the preſent great Debts of the Church, until the ſame be paid; and then the Aſſembly allows them to be taken under Conſideration before any poſterior Claims; eſpecially theſe of *Killiemuir*-Weſter, and *Tirree*, whoſe Circumſtances are very clamant. *Ibid.*

The Accounts due to the Repreſentatives of the former Printers to the Church, and to theſe who are preſently imploy'd, alſo *John Paton* Bookſeller his Account, for publick Papers, are referred to the Commiſſion, to be ſtated by them, to be paid according to the Rules preſcribed by the foreſaid Acts of Aſſembly. And it is referred to the Commiſſion, to ſettle with proper Perſons for printing the Acts of Aſſembly, and other publick Papers of this Church, and give Directions in that Matter. *Ibid.*

It is referred to the Commiſſion, to pitch upon fit Perſons to be imploy'd as Preachers and Catechiſts, in the Bounds of the Presbyteries of *Strathbogie*, *Abernethy* and *Lorn*; to travel from Houſe to Houſe, and inſtruct the People in the Principles of the true Religion, and 400 Merks *Scots* yearly is allowed to each Preacher and

Catechiſt, out of the publick Money, preferable to all other Claims, except the ſtated annual Charges of the Church: Which Preachers and Catechiſts, are declared to be under the Inſpection of the Presbyteries of the ſeveral Bounds within which they ſhall be imploy'd, who ſhall direct them as to their Work, and the Time of their Abode in the foreſaid Places: But this Allowance is only to continue during the Aſſembly's Pleaſure. *Ibid.*

The Aſſembly finds the Church's yearly Income is Five hundred Pounds *Sterling*, whereof One hundred and fifty Pounds *Sterling* yearly is ordained to be lodged in the Agent's Hand, for defraying the Expences of Proceſſes allowed by the Aſſembly, and other Incidents of the Church; and that this, with the Allowances for Probationers, already ſent to Countries where Popery abounds, and the fixed Salaries of the publick Servants of the Church, amount to Four hundred and ſixty three Pounds, two Shillings and ſeven Penies *Sterling*: So that there remains only Thirty ſix Pounds, ſeventeen Shillings and five Penies *Sterling*, of Excreſcence, to pay the bygone Debts of the Church. *Ibid.*

The Aſſembly diſcharges, for the Future, any more Allowances to be given to Commiſſioners ſent from any Presbytery whatſoever, to General Aſſemblies, for helping to defray their Charges. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to addreſs the Government for a ſuitable Fund yearly, during His Majeſty's Pleaſure, for maintaining more Preachers and Chatechiſts for travelling in Countries where Popery abounds, and for defraying the Expences of Proceſſes for ſuppreſſing of Popery, and preventing the Growth thereof. *Ibid.*

It is referred to the Commiſſion to provide Maſters *Æneas Sage*, *Alexander Schaw* and *James Gatt*, Students, having the *Iriſh* Language, in Burſaries; and to give all due Encouragement to hopeful Students having *Iriſh*, and do what they can to prefer them to Burſaries. *Ibid.*

The Aſſembly diſapprove of the Proceeding of the Commiſſion, in holding the Presbytery of *Edinburgh* Parties in the Queſtion about the Call of the Town of *Edinburgh* to Mr. *John Hepburn*; and find the ſaid Presbytery were not Parties in that Queſtion: And this their Determination was ordered to be annexed to their Atteſtation of the Commiſſion-Book. *Eod. Die, Seſſ.* 9.

The Procurator and Agent for the Church their Accounts are brought in, and ordered to be laid upon the Table until the next Sederunt. *May* 18. *Seſſ.* 10.

A Commiſſion by this Aſſembly to ſome Miniſters and Elders, to diſcuſs ſundry weighty Affairs which they could

could not overtake, and Inſtructions to them approven. *Ibid.*

The Aſſembly finds, That tho' the Presbytery of *Edinburgh* had Reaſon, according to the Views they then had of the Circumſtances of the Presbytery of *Dumfermling*, to refer to the late Commiſſion the Affair of their giving their Concurrence with the Call of the City of *Edinburgh* to Mr. *John Hepburn*, to be one of the Miniſters of that City; yet the ſame ſhould now be concurred with; And therefore they appoint the ſaid Presbytery to concur therewith, to the End it may be proſecuted in the ordinary Courſe. And in Caſe, in the Iſſue of this Proceſs, the Pariſh of *Torrieburn* ſhall happen to be vacated by the Tranſportation of Mr. *Hepburn*, the Aſſembly appoints that the ſame ſhall not be planted but with the Advice and at the Direction of the Synod of *Fife*. And the Clerk is appointed to ſend an Extract hereof to the Moderator of the Presbytery of *Dumfermling*, that he may lay the ſame before them at their next Meeting. *Ibid.*

The Lord Commiſſioner notifies to the Aſſembly, that their Return to the King's gracious Letter, and their Addreſs to His Majeſty, were laid before him, and that He was very much pleaſed with their ſeaſonable Expreſſions of Zeal for His Government, as well as Concern for the Preſervation of His Perſon, and Proſperity of His Family. And, at the Aſſembly's Deſire, his Grace did allow His Majeſty's ſaid gracious Anſwer to be printed and publiſhed with their Addreſs. *Ibid. May* 20. *Seſs.* 11.

The Proceſs and Appeal in the Competitions about planting the Pariſh of *Lochmaben*, with Mr. *William Carlyle*, Mr. *Alexander Shank* and Mr. *George Hall*, are with Conſent of Parties referred to the Commiſſion, with Power to them to cognoſce and finally determine therein. *Ibid.*

The Proceſs and Appeal about planting the Pariſh of *Edenholm* with Mr. *Thomas Pollock* is referred to the Commiſſion with Power to cognoſce and finally determine therein. *Ibid.*

The Proceſs and Appeals in the Competition about planting the Pariſh of *Whitſom* with Mr. *James Colden* and Mr. *Robert Wauch*, is referred to the Commiſſion, with Power to cognoſce and finally determine therein. *Ibid.*

The Proceſs of Scandal againſt *John Hutchiſon* of *Hairlaw*, is referred to the Commiſſion, and they are impowered to determine finally in the ſame. *Ibid.*

Presbyteries in theſe Corners where there are Papiſts, are enjoined carefully to obſerve the Directions given them

by former Aſſemblies, particularly the 8th Act of the Aſſembly 1707, 13th Act of the Aſſembly 1715, 8th Act of the Aſſembly 1717, 4th Act of the Aſſembly 1719, and 7th Act of the Aſſembly 1720, for ſuppreſſing of Popery. *Ibid.*

Overtures, for erecting the Pariſhes of *Glenelg*, *Kintail*, *Lochailſh*, *Lochcarron*, *Gairloch*, *Lochbroom* and *Aſſint*, and Pertinents thereof, into a Presbytery, to be called the Presbytery of *Gairloch*, and to have their Meetings there; The Pariſhes of *Kilmalie* in *Lochaber*, *Kilmanivaig*, *Abertarff*, *Laggan* and *Urquhart*, and *Glenmoriſtoun*, into another, to be called the Presbytery of *Abertarff*, and to meet there, and in *Maryburgh*, *per vices*: And for dividing the Pariſhes within the Bounds of the Presbytery of *Skye*, into two Presbyteries, ſo ſoon as the new Erections there are got planted; and erecting the whole Four into one Synod, to be called the Synod of *Glenelg*, to have its Meetings for ordinary in that Place, the firſt *Wedneſdays* of *April* and *October*; and for appointing the Synods of *Argyle*, *Murray* and *Roſs*, to correſpond with that new Synod, until their Vacancies be fully planted; Are recommended to the Synods and Presbyteries cconcern'd, that they may conſider the ſame, and think upon any other proper Eccleſiaſtick Remedies againſt Popery, and ſend in their Opinion to the Commiſſion in *November* or *March* next; and the Commiſſion is appointed to ripen and prepare the ſame to the next Aſſembly. And in the mean Time, it is referred to the Commiſſion, to receive, diſcuſs and determine in any References and Appeals, that ſhall be brought before them, for planting vacant Churches in the Bounds of the Presbytery of *Abernethy*. *Ibid.*

It is recommended to the Presbytery of *Skye*, as often as they can, to ſend Miniſters and Probationers to ſupply Vacancies in the Presbytery of *Dingwall*, and Pariſh of *Kintail*, and Places thereabout on the North-Weſt Coaſt, without Prejudce to the Presbytery of *Dingwal* their Inſpection of theſe Bounds, until otherwiſe determined; and Maſters *Daniel Bethune* at *Roskeen* and *Donald M'Leod* at *Contane* are ordered each of them to ſupply for four Lord's Days in that Country, and to catechize, marry and baptize therein. *Ibid.*

Supplies are appointed for the Country of *Lochaber* and Places thereabout; and it is referred to the Commiſſion to condeſcend upon the Places they are to ſerve in, and the Times of their Going and of their Abode in theſe Countries; and to hear the Excuſes of the Perſons named Miſſionaries, and do therein as they ſee needful. *Ibid.*

A Probationer is ordered for the Pariſhes of *Kiltarlatie* and *Kilmorack*, in the Presbyteries of *Inverneſs* & *Dingwal*, and to the Presbytery of *Skye*; but it is appointed, that the prior Debts of the Church, for Payment whereof Orders are already given, ſhall be paid before any Allowances to Preachers or Catechiſts, unleſs all the Perſons concerned in theſe prior Debts do willingly paſs from their Preference in Whole or in Part, and it is referred to the Commiſſion to adjuſt this Matter, and to appoint the Time when theſe Preachers and Catechiſts ſhall be ſent, and the Time of their Abode in thoſe Parts; and theſe who ſerve in *Strathbogie*, ſhall travel alſo in the Pariſh of *Rathven*. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to apply to his Majeſty's Advocate, and others in the Government, to conſider the moſt effectual Methods for putting in Execution the Sentences of the Juſticiary againſt Popiſh Prieſts, Traffickers for Popery, Apoſtates, and others diſaffected to the Government; and, when needful, to deal with them to commence Proceſſes againſt the foreſaid Perſons. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is appointed to lay before the honourable Perſons in the Government, the Diſorders of the *Jacobite* Clergy, tending to corrupt the Doctrine and Worſhip of this Church, and promote Diſaffection to His Majeſty's Government and Proteſtant Succeſſion; and to crave ſome effectual Stop to theſe growing Evils: And to apply to the Magiſtrates of Cities where illegal Meetings are kept, to put the Laws in Execution againſt them. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to think upon the moſt proper Means to hinder Magiſtrates, and others in publick Truſt, from frequenting illegal Meeting-Houſes; and Perſons diſaffected to the Government, from being imploy'd as School-maſters, Doctors and Teachers of Youth; and to apply to theſe in the Government, about the ſame; and to get Magiſtrates, who fail in their Duty in the Premiſſes, called to an Account. *Ibid.*

The Procurator and Agent for the Church, by Direction of His Majeſty's Advocate, are appointed to commence and carry on Proceſſes againſt popiſh School-maſters and School-miſtreſſes, and other Traffickers, for Popery and Apoſtates, and for getting legal Schools erected in Pariſhes where Popery abounds. *Ibid.*

The Procurator and Agent for the Church are appointed to commence and carry on Proceſſes for new Erections, Disjunctions and Annexations, in Places where Popery abounds, and where the Heritors having three Parts of Four of the Valuation of the Pariſhes, will conſent

thereto: And for eſtabliſhing a new Erection in the Iſlands of *Gigha* and *Cara*, and ſettling of a Stipend to the Miniſter of theſe Places; and alſo for carrying on new Erections in the large Highland Pariſhes within the Presbytery of *Dunkeld*. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to conſider what Allowances have been given by the Church for carrying on Proceſſes for Miniſters, whoſe Expences have been otherwiſe defrayed, and require them to refound the ſame. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is appointed to call for the Accounts of the Collection for *Duirneſs*, and reviſe the ſame; to ſee that the Money, brought in for that End, be ſecured and applied to the proper Uſe, according to the Acts of Aſſembly recommending that Collection; and to write to the Presbyteries deficient, to ſend in their Collections for that End as ſoon as poſſible; and to ſee the ſame made effectual. *Ibid.*

The Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air* is appointed to ſend up to the Clerk of the Commiſſion, an Extract of the Sentence of Excommunication againſt Mr. *John Adamſon* late Probationer, with the Grounds thereof; and the ſame is ordered to be printed, and ſent to Presbyteries to be intimated, according to the 9th Act of Aſſembly 1704: And the Commiſſion is inſtructed to apply to the Civil Magiſtrate for Concurrence, as the Law directs. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion is inſtructed to do what they find proper, with relation to Mr. *Alexander Scrimzeour*, and ſome other Maſters in the Univerſity of St. *Andrews*, under Proceſs before the Commiſſion for viſiting that Univerſity. *Ibid.*

The Caſe of Mr. *John Keith*, Miniſter at *Walls* in *Orkney*, is referred to the Commiſſion; and they are inſtructed to do what they can, to get his Grievances redreſſed *Ibid.*

It is earneſtly recommended to all the Pariſhes within the Synods of *Fife*, *Perth*, *Angus* and *Mearns*, to make a voluntary Collection for building a Bridge over the Water that ſeparates *Lochlee* from *Naver*. *Ibid.*

The Caſe of Mr. *Robert Brown* late Miniſter at *Roxburgh* is referred to the Commiſſion, with Power to them to repone him to the Exerciſe of his Miniſtry, and take off the Sentence of Depoſition ſtanding againſt him, if they ſhall find Cauſe ſo to do. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Procurator's Accounts of the Church's Allowance of 500 *L. Sterling*, which was at the Diſpoſal of the laſt General Aſſembly, for defraying the Charges of the Church for the Year 1722, and

and discharging him and his Cautioner of his Intromissions therewith, and appointing the Ballance of One Pound, five Shillings, five Pennies, and five Sixthparts of a Peny *Sterling* due to him, to be stated as an Article of Discharge in his next Account. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Accounts of the Agent for the Church, and sustaining his Depursements on the Church's Affairs from the First of *May* 1722, to the First of *May* 1723; and appointing the Ballance of Thirty four Pounds, three Penies, and two Thirdparts of a Peny *Sterling* due to him, to be paid, according to the Acts of Assembly; and discharging him of this and preceeding Accounts. *Ibid.*

The Commission is instructed to think upon some Way to make the Observation of the Acts of Assembly, as to licensing Probationers, effectual; and upon some Overtures for explaining the said Acts; and to think upon proper Directions to be given to Presbyteries, what they are to do with young Men, who offer Licences to them, where the foresaid Acts of Assembly have not been observed; and to prepare special and distinct Overtures as to this Matter, and lay the same before the next Assembly, to be considered by them. *Ibid.*

A Reference from the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air* to the Assembly, of a Process for Scandal against *Alexander Cuninghame* of *Polquhairn* and Others, is of Consent remitted back to the Presbytery of *Air*, where it first began, the Parties concerned having past from their Appeal from that Presbytery to the foresaid Synod; and the Presbytery is directed to proceed therein according to the Form of Process. *Ibid.*

The Case of Mr. *John Ramsay* Minister of *Cairnie* and *Botarie* is referred to the Commission; and the Synod of *Murray* is allowed to give in their Answers in this Matter to the Commission, who are impowered to cognosce and finally determine therein, as they shall find just *Ibid.*

The Recommendation of the Assembly 1720, of a Collection for encouraging a new Erection in the Parish of *Norieſtoun*, is renewed; and it is again recommended to all who are deficient in the said Contribution, to make the same as soon as possible, and transmit the Money to *Nicol Spence* Agent for the Church, or Mr. *Matthew Wallace* Minister at *Kinnardine*, Collector thereof appointed by the Presbytery of *Dumblain*. *Ibid.*

Mr. *Henry Robin*, late Minister at *Bruntisland*, his Bill is refused; and the Committees of Assembly are discharged to receive or transmit any more Petitions or Representations with respect to the Matters contained in

the ſoreſaid Bill to the General Aſſemblies of this Church *Ibid.*

The Synod-Book of *Galloway* is examined and atteſted in common Form. *Ibid.*

The Moderator preſented to the Aſſembly a Letter from his Grace the Duke of *Roxburgh*, acquainting him, that the Aſſembly's Anſwer to the King's gracious Letter, and their Addreſs, were preſented to His Majeſty; and that He had declared His gracious Acceptance of both, in Manner expreſs'd by the Lord Commiſſioner at the laſt *Sederunt*: Which Letter was read in Aſſembly, *May* 21. *Antemerid.* Seſſ. 12.

The Letter from his Highneſs the Duke of *Sax-Gotha*, and thoſe from the Conſiſtory of the Congregation of the *French* Proteſtant Colony at *Hildburghauſen*, and Monſieur *D'Ebeynne* their Agent, being tranſlated, were laid before the Aſſembly; and the Tranſlation of the ſaid Letter from his Highneſs was read, and the other two, with Memorials relative thereto, were referred to the Commiſſion: And the Moderator was appointed to write an Anſwer to his Highneſs's Letter, and the Commiſſion was impowered to receive from *John Martin*, the Collector of the Contribution for that Colony, an Account of the Deficients, and to direct him in the Management of that Collection as they ſhall ſee Cauſe, and do every Thing neceſſary to make the ſaid Contributions effectual for the Purpoſes deſigned. *Ibid.*

The Synod-Books of *Glaſgow* and *Air*, *Perth* and *Stirling*, and *Fife*, two Volumes of the Regiſters of the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*, and the Synod-Book of *Aberdeen*, were examined and atteſted: But there being a ſecond Volume of the Regiſters of the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling* brought up, which the Viſitors had not Time to reviſe, the ſame was ordered to be brought to be reviſed by the next Aſſembly; and the Synod-Book of *Fife* was atteſted, with ſome Remarks of incorrect Writing, and an Advice to that Synod, to take Care that their Regiſter be more exactly written hereafter; and the Subſcribing of the Atteſtation was delayed until the Moderators of the ſeveral Meetings of the Synod do ſubſcribe the Regiſter. *Ibid.*

The Synod-Books of *Roſs* and *Sutherland*, two Copies of the Synod-Book of *Caithneſs* and *Orkney*, the Presbytery-Book of *Zetland*, the Synod-Books of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, *Merſe* and *Teviotdale*, and *Drumfries*, were examined and atteſted, but the Presbytery Book of *Zetland* was atteſted, with ſeveral Remarks, and an Advice that they take Care to amend the Faults remarked, and Faults of the like Nature, in Time coming:

And

And the Actings of the Synod of *Orkney* and *Caithneſs*, at three Meetings, not being ſigned by the Moderators, the Atteſtation was ordered not to be ſubſcribed, until theſe Moderators do ſign the Books: And the Synod-Book of *Murray* not being brought up, it was ordered that the ſame be brought before the next Aſſembly. *Eodem Die, Poſtmerid.* Seſſ. 13.

It is referred to the Commiſſion to take under Conſideration the Memorial, approven by the 9th Act of Aſſembly 1715, with relation to the Sacramental Teſt's being impoſed upon Members of the Church of *Scotland*, when in *England* or *Ireland*; and to proſecute the Deſign of that Memorial. *Ibid.*

It is referred to the Commiſſion to fall upon proper Methods for having Proclamations, and Orders for Faſts and Thankſgivings, timeouſly ſent to Miniſters; and to take Notice of ſuch as do not obſerve the ſame upon the Days appointed by Authority; and the Commiſſion is inſtructed to do all they can to prevent ſuch Irregularities for the Future, by taking Care that ſuch as fail in this Matter be cenſured according to the Demerit of their Fault. *Ibid.*

It is referred to the Commiſſion to uſe Endeavours to have a new Proclamation from his Majeſty, that may be moſt effectual for ſuppreſſing Immorality. *Ibid.*

It is referred to the Commiſſion, to conſider what may be repreſented to them from the Presbyteries of *Zetland* and *Caithneſs*, and to do therein as they ſee Cauſe. *Ibid.*

It is referred to the Commiſſion, to cauſe put Mr. *James Anderſon* at *Hawick*, a Student having *Iriſh*, on Trials; and ſend him to the Presbytery of *Dornock*, and Synod of *Roſs*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, to apply to the civil Magiſtrate, and theſe in the Government, to ſuppreſs the Diſorders of Mr. *John Taylor* excommunicated, and his Followers. *Ibid.*

Extracts of the Sentence of Excommunication againſt Mr. *John Borthwick* of *Cruickſtoun* Advocate, and *Iſabel Scot* his Servitrix, and that againſt *Donald Greſſick* and *Florence Monro*, are appointed to be ſent to the Agent for the Church, ſo ſoon as they are intimated in the Churches within the Synods to which they belong, that they may be ſent to the other Presbyteries to be intimated, according to the 9th Act of Aſſembly 1704. *Ibid.*

It is referred to the Commiſſion, to conſider the Returns ſent from Synods and Presbyteries to the Letters of the late Commiſſion, and to do therein as they find Cauſe;

and likewiſe to proceed in all Matters referred to the late Commiſſion, yet undiſcuſſed, according to the Powers granted to that Commiſſion. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, to concert with the Honourable Magiſtrates of *Edinburgh*, and provide Regulations, to hinder ſuch as have no Concern in the Aſſembly-houſe from thronging into the ſame, and taking up the Room of the Members; and to lay the ſame before the next Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

Liſts of Probationers and Students of Divinity are brought in, and the Names of Probationers read, and both ordered to be recorded. *Ibid.*

Proteſtation was admitted, at the Inſtance of the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns*, againſt the Pariſhioners of *Fettercairn*, for not inſiſting in their Appeal againſt the Sentence of that Synod, continuing Mr. *James Small* in his Miniſtry at *Carmylie*, and refuſing to tranſport him to *Fettercairn*. *Ibid.*

A Committee is appointed to reviſe the Minutes of this Aſſembly, and give Directions for printing ſuch of the Acts as are to be ſtanding Rules, or of publick Uſe. *Ibid.*

The Minutes of this *Sederunt* read, the Minutes of all the preceeding *Sederunts* having been read at the reſpective Diets, ſubſequent to each *Sederunt*. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Speech to the Aſſembly, and to the King's Commiſſioner. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſioner's Speech, and Concluſion of this Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

FINIS.

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